

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 069796
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP
APPROVED BY IO/UNA:JFTEFFT
S/S-O:LFLEISCHER

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O 180113Z MAR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 069796

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 4320 ACTION SECSTATE 17 MAR 78

QUOTE

S E C R E T LONDON 04320

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, SF, UK
SUBJECT: SOVIET NOTE ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR SITUATIO
REF: STATE 69192

1. WE INFORMED FCO (BURNS, ACTING HEAD OF ARMS CONTROL
AND DISARMAMENT DEPT) ON MARCH 17 OF SOVIET ORAL MESSAG
AND US RESPONSE PER REFTEL. WE ALSO DREW FULLY ON
PARAS 3-5 OF REFTEL IN VIEW EARLIER FCO REQUEST FOR UP-
DATE ON DISCUSSIONS BY US NUCLEAR TECHNICAL TEAM IN
SOUTH AFRICA.

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2. BURNS CONFIRMED RECEIPT OF SOVIET COMMUNICATION
ALONG LINES SIMILAR TO MESSAGE RECEIVED BY US. NOW
THAT US RESPONSE IS KNOWN, FCO HOPES TO OBTAIN
MINISTERIAL APPROVAL OF DRAFT UK RESPONSE EARLY NEXT
WEEK. CONSULTATION ON US REPLY THUS TIMELY AND
APPRECIATED.

3. PROPOSED BRITISH REPLY IS ALONG SIMILAR LINES, BUT
WITH LESS DETAIL, NOTING:

- BEST WAY TO HANDLE CONCERN OVER SOUTH AFRICAN
NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT IS TO GAIN SAG ADHERENCE TO NPT AND
ITS ACCEPTANCE OF ADEQUATE INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS;
- UK HAS MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO SAG TO THIS EFFECT
- BEST HOPE FOR PROGRESS LIES IN AMERICAN CONTACTS
WITH SOUTH AFRICANS, WHICH UK WILL SUPPORT WITH ITS OWN
REPRESENTATIONS AS APPROPRIATE;
- UK DOES NOT RULE OUT UNSC CONSIDERATION BUT SEES
NO NEED WHILE OTHER MEANS OF ACHIEVING THESE OBJECTIVES
ARE IN PLAY. (AS OF NOW, HMG RESPONSE WILL BE GENERAL
AND DOES NOT COMMENT ON SPECIFIC FACILITIES WITHIN SOUTH
AFRICA.)

4. DEPT REPEAT AS APPROPRIATE.
UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 18 mar 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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